

In my opinion, allowing the same, small group of media companies to own all the media in any given area is counter to our democracy since such ownership, by its very nature, will restrict the diversity of opinion and views available to the general public.

The newscasts nationwide look disturbingly the same with the same theme music and, surprisingly, the same content as well as the same point of view on political issues as all the others. While this is an excellent business model, it does not serve the public well to provide access to a multitude of opinions and news.

The advent of internet, satellite TV and cable have not fostered a diversity of opinion as is being put forth by Chairman Powell, but rather serves to consolidate the opinions available. 200 channels of the same viewpoint is not diversity and that is what we have currently.

AM radio is a good example of the lack of diversity of opinion available due to the consolidation of media ownership. Democracy is not everyone having the same view on a subject nor should it be so but this is the picture that one gets from listening to AM as one crosses the country.

Changing the rules to allow more ownership by the few only serves the few, not the democracy that is America. My understanding of the 1st amendment is that we, as citizens, have the right to speak our minds. This cannot be if the means to speak our minds is controlled by the few. I urge the commission to resist the temptation to further consolidate the ownership of the PUBLIC airways by the few.

Regards,
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